



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/864,632	05/23/2001	Kerry McLellan	KNK-3.2.001/3705	1720
1059	7590	11/18/2005	EXAMINER	
BERESKIN AND PARR 40 KING STREET WEST BOX 401 TORONTO, ON M5H 3Y2 CANADA			WEBB, JAMISUE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3629	

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16, 17, 19, 33, 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shannon (US 2001/0045449) in view of Kucharczyk et al. (6,300,873).

3. With respect to Claims 1, 16 and 35: Shannon discloses the use of an apparatus for storing a parcel comprising:

- a. A storage locker (Figures 1, 3-6),
- b. A lock coupled to locker (50)
- c. A delivery access key for accessing storage locker (130), which is disabled after use (Paragraph 0012)
- d. Shannon discloses the use of an item access key that is similar to the delivery access key (temporary access code) and can be used by the recipient (or consumer). But does not specifically disclose that the lock is configured to be opened by only one key at any one time, and the item access key is disabled after use also. Kucharczyk discloses

the use of a locking mechanism in a system, which has a one-time use access code, so that every time the lock is accessed, the code is disabled and a new code is issued.

(Column 7, lines 32-62). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shannon, to have the delivery access key and item access key be different and disabled after every use, as disclosed by Kucharczyk in order to minimize the risk of unauthorized access and tracking access to lockers. (See Kucharczyk Column 7)

e. Shannon discloses a method of delivering a parcel comprising the steps of selecting the delivery address of storage device (which the examiner considers to be selecting a depot, Paragraph 0011), placing parcel in locker, locking storage locker, where locker is accessed by key, and changing key after being used (page 5, paragraphs 0039, 0041 and 0042).

4. With respect to Claims 2 and 35: Shannon discloses the key being synchronized with a key at a location remote from said lock (synchronized between delivery person and receiver, page 5, paragraph 0038).

5. With respect to Claim 3: Shannon discloses a control unit located at remote location, external to device (page 4, paragraph 0036).

6. With respect to Claims 5-9: See Page 4, paragraphs 0034 and 0037.

7. With respect to Claim 10: See Page 3, paragraph 0027.

8. With respect to Claims 11-14: Shannon discloses the locker comprising a plurality of openings or compartments, and different size shelves, all accessed by the same overall door and code (page 3, paragraph 0027).

Art Unit: 3629

9. With respect to Claims 17 and 33: See Page 5, paragraph 0038.

With respect to Claim 19: See Page 5, paragraph 0036.

10. Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shannon and Kucharczyk as applied to claims 1 and 16 above, and further in view of O'Connor (6,330,816).

11. Shannon, as disclosed above for Claims 1 and 16, discloses the use of a storage locker with either a mechanical or an electrical lock (Page 4, paragraph 0037), but fails to disclose the use of an electrical key, which accesses a mechanical key to open the lock box. O'Connor discloses a lock, that is mounted on a door in a closed position (see abstract), that contains a mechanical key that opens the door and is accessed using a keypad, or an electronic key (see figures 7-9 with corresponding detailed descriptions). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the storage locker of Shannon, to include the lock box with access to the mechanical key, as disclosed by O'Connor, in order to provide the benefit of enabling limited access to an unattended area which is a mechanical lock (See O'Connor column 1).

12. Claims 16, 17, and 19-34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogilvie et al. (6,344,796) in view of Kucharczyk (6,300,873).

13. With respect to Claim 16: Ogilvie discloses the use of a method of delivering a parcel comprising the steps of:

- a. Selecting a depot (See Figure 4, Note SB and Depot Address, therefore depot had to have been selected),
- b. Placing parcel in locker (column 4, lines 1-4),
- c. Locking locker (column 4, lines 4-5),
- d. Wherein storage locker is accessible with a key (column 4, lines 12-20), and
- e. Changing said key subsequent to use (column 4 lines 20-23). Ogilvie however, fails to disclose that the lock is configured to be opened by only one key at any one time, and the item access key is disabled after use also. Kucharczyk discloses the use of a locking mechanism in a system, which has a one-time use access code, so that every time the lock is accessed, the code is disabled and a new code is issued. (Column 7, lines 32-62). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ogilvie, to have the delivery access key and item access key be different and disabled after every use, as disclosed by Kucharczyk in order to minimize the risk of unauthorized access and tracking access to lockers. (See Kucharczyk Column 7)
- f. Ogilvie, however fails to disclose the step of first unlocking the actual locker before placing the parcel in the locker. It is old and well known in the art that when a parcel is delivered to a secure location that the container is first unlocked before placing the item into the container. For example in group mailboxes, when a post made delivers mail to an apartment, one key is used to open the boxes, the mail is placed inside and the individual keys of the residents are used to open the boxes. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

modify Ogilvie, to first unlock the boxes, then lock them back up, for security and privacy purposes.

14. With respect to Claim 17: See Claim 1.
15. With respect to Claim 19: See Column 4, lines 45-53 and Claims 11 and 12.
16. With respect to Claim 20-25 and 30-33: See column 4, lines 24-53.
17. With respect to Claim 26: See Claim 15.
18. With respect to Claims 28 and 29: See Column 4, lines 54-67 and column 5, lines 22-30.
19. With respect to Claim 34: Ogilvie discloses a method and means for delivering a parcel comprising the steps:
 - f. Providing parcel and depot selection to delivery agent (carrier or shipper) (column 3, lines 50-52),
 - g. Delivering parcel to depot (column 3, lines 59-65),
 - h. Delivery agent selecting locker and placing parcel in locker (column 4, lines 1-5),
 - i. Providing parcel ID and locker ID to central system (column 4, lines 6-23),
 - j. Central system providing customer with parcel ID and locker ID (column 4, lines 24-44),
 - k. Customer using key to retrieve parcel from locker (column 4, lines 45-67).
20. With respect to Claims 38, 39 and 40: See Kucharczyk abstract, Column 7, lines 23-65).
21. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogilvie.

Art Unit: 3629

22. Ogilvie as disclosed for Claim 24 above, discloses using e-mail to send a message to the customer that the delivery is ready for pick-up (column 2, lines 50-67), but fails to disclose verifying that the customer received the e-mail. It is old and well known in the art that when an e-mail is received there is an option of a receipt. Therefore it is obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art that to add a read receipt onto the e-mail that is sent to customer, to make sure the customer received the message.

23. Claims 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shannon in view of O'Connor (6,330,816).

24. Shannon, as disclosed above for Claims 1 and 16, discloses the use of a storage locker with either a mechanical or an electrical lock (Page 4, paragraph 0037), but fails to disclose the use of an electrical key, which accesses a mechanical key to open the lock box. O'Connor discloses a lock, that is mounted on a door in a closed position (see abstract), that contains a mechanical key that opens the door and is accessed using a keypad, or an electronic key (see figures 7-9 with corresponding detailed descriptions). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the storage locker of Shannon, to include the lock box with access to the mechanical key, as disclosed by O'Connor, in order to provide the benefit of enabling limited access to an unattended area which is a mechanical lock (See O'Connor column 1).

Response to Arguments

25. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Examiner has modified the rejection to take into account the newly added claim limitations.

Conclusion

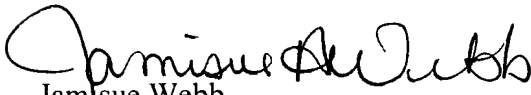
26. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

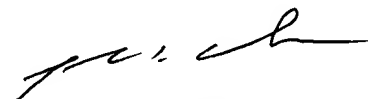
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamisue A. Webb whose telephone number is (571) 272-6811. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 - 4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jamsue Webb


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600